


Abstract of the Disclosure

 A combined filter element support and anti-prefill valve is used with an annular filter element having an annular filter media with a hollow core for filtering lubricating oil or fuel. The filter element is disposed within a housing closed by an end plate having a central spin-on outlet opening and a plurality of spaced radially disposed inlets. The combined component includes a unitary body having annular portion wherein the annular portion has annular shoulder extending radially therefrom for supporting the filter element and a sealing section which engages the end plate over a continuous location which is coaxial with the central spin-on opening. The unitary body has a radially extending plate portion having an axially positioned one-way valve unitary therewith which opens in an axial direction toward the spin-on opening. The one-way valve closes to prevent oil or fuel from flowing through the central spin-on opening and into the hollow core of the filter element and opens when fluid is being circulated is under pumping pressure. In a preferred embodiment, the one-way valve is configured by a pair of lips which normally abut along a line and separate when subjected to oil or fuel pressure.